

**SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**CONFIRMATION INFORMATION PACKET**  
**2023-2024**

We are delighted that you are taking this important step in your faith journey. This is a time for you to explore your faith and ask all of the questions you would like answered. We are here to help you learn about every aspect of the faith that you want to explore. Confirmation is your acceptance of the faith as your own. It is no longer, just your parent's faith it is now your faith. Take this time to learn as much as you can, but realize you will always be learning and experiencing as you live your life. This is just the beginning of your faith journey. As it is said in the Mass, we are on a Pilgrim's Journey. It means we learn what we can and keep growing and moving closer to the Journey's End, Heaven.

Our whole faith revolves around the liturgy or the Mass. As the year progresses, you will notice that we use the yearly calendar called the Liturgical Calendar as one guide to the topics of discussion. Each year the Liturgical Calendar helps us to celebrate the moments in the Roman Catholic faith we hold dear as a Catholic community. Each week is another opportunity to understand an aspect of our faith on a deeper level. As you grow older and have gained life experiences good and bad, you will understand the celebrations from a different point of view.

May the Lord grant you the gift of faith. May you accept and grow with that gift every day. Together may we grow in the awareness of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

**SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE (even after you are Confirmed):**

Sunday Mass is vitally important to your spiritual growth. During the weekly Sunday Mass, we hear the Word of God and we are nourished by the gift of the Jesus' body and blood. Preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation is making a commitment to live as a Catholic Christian for the rest of your life. Sunday Mass is the center of our Catholic life. It is the beginning of our week facing the world prepared to guard yourself against evil. The Mass also provides us time of giving thanks to Almighty God, for the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Consider that you are receiving a gift at Confirmation, the gift of the Holy Spirit. Sunday Mass with Jesus' body and blood prepares you spiritually and mentally to receive the great gifts of the Holy Spirit. To just show up and be confirmed by the Bishop without regularly participating in Sunday Mass in preparation is not fulfilling your part of the commitment to your faith and not acting in a respectful way of receiving the desired gift. Is your disposition right with receiving the Holy Spirit?

**CLASS ATTENDANCE**

Sacraments Policy: Students in the year before sacramental preparation begins (1st and 6th grades) and the year of the sacramental preparation (2nd, 7th, and 8th grades) must have a minimum of a 75% attendance record the entire year. If a student's attendance is less than 75%, a pastoral conference with Father Trapp will be required to determine if the student is ready to move to the next grade level.

## **SERVICE HOURS:**

Service hours are an important component in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Service hours provide the opportunity of giving loving Christian witness. Our lives as Catholic Christians are to be spent in service to the Gospel, performing corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and living by the Precepts of the Catholic Church. Service hours are a reminder to us to put the needs of others before our own needs.

A total of 30 service hours is required. Your service is to be divided into 3 ways of (10) ten service hours for home, community, and church. This is to be arranged with two different service projects, totaling five hours for: home, community, and church. Please ***do not repeat*** the same project twice. (i.e. if you mow the lawn at home you cannot list mow the lawn for church, or community.) **We no longer accept babysitting as a service for home. We want these experiences to be outside of normal chores to help the family.**

When a service project is finished, please fill out the form enclosed in this packet. It is to be signed by the supervisor of the project. If you have any questions about if a project can count towards service hours, please ask.

### **IDEAS FOR SERVICE (these are suggestions only & not a full list of possible service hours):**

#### **Home**

- Help clean house or yard work around the house - *without pay/ above and beyond normal expectations, not babysitting.*
- Make dinner for the family
- Elderly neighbor or grandparents: yard work or household chores

#### **Community**

- Helping with civic organizations (*Boy/Girl Scouts, The Plain City Food Pantry, Clothes Thrift Shop*)
- Helping in a school

#### **Church**

- PAC clean-up of grounds (St. Martin DePorres, ie. weeding by building, help them move items for the clients.)
- Pancake breakfasts (Parents need to be present with the child. Also, register ahead of time with the Knights. Do not just drop in.)
- Vacation Bible School

***Service hours are to be completed by Sunday, February 25, 2024. You can turn all your service project reports into your teacher. If you get all of your hours and essays completed early you do not have to wait to turn your sheets in.***

## **CONFIRMATION ESSAY:**

In preparation for Confirmation, you are to write a two-page essay briefly talking about your spiritual life. **This essay is due on Sunday, February 25, 2024.**

The essay is to contain and give detail in the following areas:

1. To talk with your parents about the day of your baptism and why they wanted you baptized.
2. To write about: Why is the Gift of the Eucharist at the Mass important to you? 3. To

investigate your chosen Saints life. To write about the saint's name you have chosen for your confirmation name and why you wish that saint for a role model in your life. (Make sure you fully research your saint for the interview with Father. He does ask questions. More detailed instructions to follow.)

4. To write about your favorite passage of sacred Scripture that you studied in preparation for Confirmation.

5. Why you chose the person to be your confirmation sponsor and the importance of their Christian witness that they have given to you.

**\*\* Confirmation Essay is due: Sunday, February 25, 2024**

## **CONFIRMATION INTERVIEW**

**Prior to Confirmation, interviews with Father Trapp will be conducted.** All interviews must be scheduled through the parish office (614-873-8850) in advance. Students should be prepared to answer questions that Father Trapp will ask. A parent or sponsor must attend this interview. The following dates and times have been allotted for the interviews:

**Monday, March 4, 3-5 pm and 7-9 pm**

**Monday, March 11, 3-5 pm and 7-9 pm**

**Wednesday, March 13, 3-5 pm and 7-9 pm**

## **SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION INFORMATION:**

### **Baptismal Certificate**

Each candidate is to provide a copy of your baptismal certificate so that your church where you were baptized may be notified that you have been confirmed. If your baptism took place at Saint Joseph in Plain City, there is no need to give a copy of your baptismal certificate. This information can be found in the Parish Registry. (If you have any doubt as to whether the office has a copy of your Baptism Certificate, please call the DRE at 614-873-8850.)

### **Confirmation Saint Name**

Each candidate should choose a confirmation name. Confirmation names must be that of a saint of the church. The choosing of a new name is a sign of your new identity in Christ, and the desiring of a particular saint to help you live out your Christian life. You may retake your given name as your confirmation name if it is a saint's name.

### **Confirmation Sponsor**

To show the connection between the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, the church suggests that your confirmation sponsor should be one of your baptismal godparents. You are free to choose a totally new sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation. If your sponsor is unable to attend the confirmation, a proxy sponsor may be used to stand in for your sponsor.

**Parents can not be a sponsor for their own children. Parents can not act in proxy for a sponsor for their own children.**

The following requirements must be fulfilled to be a sponsor for confirmation:

1. Must be a baptized Catholic, fully initiated in the Catholic faith (received First Holy and Communion and Confirmation.)

2. Over the age of 16.
3. Must be practicing and living the Catholic faith: Regularly attending Sunday Mass.
4. If married, having a validly recognized marriage by the Catholic Church.
5. A proxy sponsor must fulfill all of the requirements as the pointed sponsor.

Sponsors for Confirmation must provide a letter from their home parish stating that they are:

1. Registered members of the Parish and regularly practicing their faith.
2. If married, having a validly recognized marriage by the Catholic Church.
3. Signed by the Pastor with the seal of the Parish Church.

All parishes provide a form letter stating this information. In most cases, the parish secretary takes care of this information for the Pastor.

**Next Steps:** Now you are Catholic it is your responsibility to continue cultivating your conscience and maintain your religious education through high school, college, and life long. You cannot go through life with an 8th grade introductory knowledge of the faith. This was just the initiation into the faith. You also have a Sponsor that can assist you.

Attend Mass weekly, attend youth group or a catholic high school, help your community and pray daily.

## **IMPORTANT INFO & DATES TO REMEMBER**

**The date for the Sacrament of Confirmation: TBD, at St. Joseph Parish Activity Center (PAC). Students need to be in the double classroom at TBD.**

*Please note: all the dates for confirmation are scheduled by the Bishop's office, in keeping with the Bishop's schedule. We have no choice in the date assigned to the Parish.*

**Rehearsal for Confirmation: Saturday, \_\_\_\_\_, 2023** at the PAC. Candidates and sponsors (if possible) are required to be at the rehearsal. Confession will be available after practice and a pizza party and social time will follow Confession. (Remember that candidates are to be free of sin before Confirmation.)

### **PARENT MEETING AND COMMITMENT:**

- **Parent Meeting:** Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 7:00 pm-8:30 pm at the PAC (parent only)
- **Commitment Mass:** Sunday, October 15, at **11:00 am Mass** at the PAC, parents, and candidates are required to attend.

### **RETREAT(S)\*:**

- **6, 7, & 8 Grade Retreat** – Friday January 19, 2024, at 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm with Net Ministries at the PAC.
- **Confirmation Retreat** – Saturday, January 20, 2024, from 9 am-6 pm with Net Ministries at the PAC. Concluding with Mass at 5:00 pm.